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Serial No.: 09/459,522

**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Applicants:	Chet M. Crump et al.	Docket	BA-00117
Serial No.:	09/459,522	Group:	3761
Filed:	December 13, 1999	Examiner:	Darwin P. Erez
For:	Endotracheal Catheter and Manifold Assembly with Improved Valve	Date:	November 13, 2001

**Amendment - A**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and in response to the Office Action mailed June 6, 2001, the following amendments and remarks are submitted for your consideration.

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**In the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein the flap is configured such that at least one protrusion on a proximal surface of the flap engages the [distal end of the] catheter.
6. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 5 wherein the flap is generally disk-shaped and has at least one projection extending proximally outwardly therefrom [to increase the diameter of the disk].
9. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 8 further comprising a collar disposed in the manifold, and wherein the [orifice] aperture is formed in the collar.
15. (Amended) A respiratory suction apparatus comprising:  
a suction catheter having a distal end for suctioning secretions;